

City of
Bloomington
Indiana

City Hall
401 N. Morton St.
Post Office box 100
Bloomington, Indiana 47402



Environmental Commission

(812) 349-3423
FAX (812) 349-3535

Mark Kruzan
Mayor

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, June 19, 2008

7:00 pm

City Hall – McCloskey Room
401 North Morton Street

Attending: Phaedra Pezzullo, Laura Trout, Heather Reynolds, Mike Litwin, Kriste Lindberg, Tom McGlasson (arrived at 8:00 p.m.), Linda Thompson (staff), Jacob Mazer (staff), Mark Lemon (staff)

Absent: Kelly Boatman, Jacqui Bauer, Don Moore, Mike Tosick

Vice Chair Phaedra Pezzullo called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Note: meeting order altered from agenda because no quorum. Notes inserted to indicate changes.

- I. Announcements
 - a. Next Environmental Commission meeting: Thursday, July 17th, 7:00 p.m., McCloskey Room
 - b. Next Planning Committee meetings: Friday, June 20th and Wednesday, July 2nd at 4:00 p.m., City Planning Department
 - c. Next EC/BCOS Education Committee meeting: Monday, June 30th, 5:15 p.m., Indiana Room of the Monroe County Public Library

Note: Meeting order alters from agenda at this point because Environmental Commission not at quorum until 8:00 p.m., when Tom McGlasson arrives.

- II. Guest Presentation: City Utilities Director Pat Murphy, Black & Veatch representatives, and representatives of Wittman Hydro Planning Associates, Inc. to discuss drinking water plant expansion
 - a. Plan – 3 Phases
 - i. Monroe Water Treatment Plant filter rehabilitation – almost complete
 - ii. Southeast Water Systems Improvements – Design to be completed in May 2009, construction completed in March 2001. Total estimated cost of \$20.5 million.
 - iii. Monroe Water Treatment Plant expansion – Will expand treatment capacity from 24 million gallons per day (mgd) to 30 mgd with capacity to expand to 36 mgd. Design to be completed in June 2009, construction completed in February 2012. Total estimated cost of \$21.1 million.
 - b. Water Demand
 - i. Average annual increase from 1970 to 2007 is 2.76%
 - ii. Indiana Department of Environmental Management requirements state that peak consumption cannot exceed 90% of capacity in the previous 2 years



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- iii. Capacity for current water treatment plant with all 4 filters operating is 24 mgd. 90% is 21.6 mgd. With 3 filters operating and a capacity of 18 mgd the 90% threshold is 16.2 mgd.
- iv. The peak average for the Monroe Water Treatment Plant in the last 2 years is 22.20 mgd, well above the 90% threshold stipulated by IDEM
- c. Conservation
 - i. City Utilities is making a new commitment to conservation. Wittman Hydro Planning Associates, Inc. (WHPA) has just started a one year contract with the City of Bloomington for development of a water conservation plan. Theresa Landaway of WHPA outlined the scope of the work, which will include an audit, demand forecast, identifying water conservation measures, and selecting effective measures for implementation. She will give a progress update at the July EC meeting.
- d. Discussion
 - i. Mike Litwin commented that if the issue is peak demand, then why not deal with it by storing water for peak demand times. Utilities and Black & Veatch responded that extra water cannot be stored to meet peak demand because chlorination chemicals would degrade under storage, producing unhealthy compounds.
 - ii. The issue was also raised that instead of expansion of the treatment plant, conservation plans could be implemented to curb the water consumption peaks. Utilities and Black and Veatch maintain the current expansion is necessary, but feel conservation will be important for future planning.
 - iii. Heather Reynolds raised the issue of who will pay for the expansion, noting that there has been concern that City of Bloomington ratepayers – who currently account for only about 40% of water demand, will be subsidizing expansion to meet the demands of sprawl in the surrounding counties. In addition to who will pay is the issue of the rate structure: can progressive rate structures be implemented such that water rates are highest for the heaviest users, thus promoting conservation? Patrick Murphy responded that the issue of who will pay and what the rate structure will be needs to be worked out. He also suggested that sprawl is predicated on sewer infrastructure not water infrastructure and that Black & Veatch projections are that the majority of the increase in demand will be within the City of Bloomington Utilities area.
 - iv. Reynolds suggested that an important issue for future discussion is watershed best management practices. Cities such as New York City, for example, have employed such practices in lieu of building new water plant capacity, relying on green infrastructure and intelligent land use to purify water naturally. How much could such practices reduce Bloomington's need for additional water plant capacity?

Note: Tom McGlasson arrives, bringing the Commission to quorum

III. Approval of Minutes

- a. Both April and May Minutes considered for approval (April minutes not approved at May meeting).



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- b. Heather Reynolds and Laura Trout submitting edits via email
- c. Heather Reynolds motions to approve April minutes with edits
 - i. Laura Trout seconds
 - ii. Approved unanimously
- d. Laura Trout motions to approve May minutes with edits
 - i. Heather Reynolds seconds
 - ii. Approved unanimously

IV. Reports

- a. Staff Reports
 - i. Jacob Mazer
 - 1. Working on Bloomington Environmental Quality Indicators website updates
 - 2. Working on city webpage updates
- b. Senior Environmental Planner
 - i. 3 cases will be heard next month with potential environmental implications
 - 1. Indiana Assets – behind Bombay House on 4th St.
 - 2. Monroe House Addition – Tapp and Adams Rd. Assisted living facility.
 - 3. Ramsey Land Development – Changing original plan – staying off steep slopes (slope > 18%). Good for environmental quality.
- c. Green Building
 - i. A LEED certified architect may work with the city to implement the ordinance. The architect's preliminary assessment of the ordinance is that the basis is sound.
- d. Greenhouse Gas Reduction Committee
 - i. EC intern Mark Lemon is working with Commission on Sustainability intern Patrick Foley on a greenhouse gas inventory for the city. The inventory will look at current greenhouse gas levels, compare those levels to those found in the 2006 EC inventory, and assess where the city is in regards to reaching the goal of 7% reduction below 1990 levels by 2012 signed by Mayor Kruzan as part of the Mayor's Climate Agreement.
- e. Education Committee
 - i. The next meeting will be Monday, June 30th, 5:15 p.m., Indiana Room of the Monroe County Public Library
- f. Commissioners' Reports
 - i. Kriste Lindberg – Thank you to Jacob Mazer for helping make Jordan River Fest a success.
 - ii. Kelly Boatman (via email to Phaedra Pezzullo) – Lucille Bertuccio approached the EC about sitting on a public panel to discuss the drinking water plant expansion plan. Kelly will follow up with Lucille to see exactly what she expects the EC's role to be.
 - iii. Jacqui Bauer (via email to Phaedra Pezzullo) – The Bloomington MPO is working on a complete streets policy. Any future road funding will have to follow this policy.

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- iv. Mike Litwin – Wind power development in northwest Indiana. The goal is to build 1000 turbines within 3 years, generating between 1,500 and 2,000 megawatt hours of power.
- v. Heather Reynolds – Randal Arendt will be in the Bloomington area. The EC might want to allocate money to having him speak.

V. New Business

- a. Environmental Commission/Commission on Sustainability Transportation Initiative Letter
 - i. Clarification and citation edits proposed
 - ii. Tom McGlasson motions to approve the Environmental Commission/Commission on Sustainability Transportation Initiative Letter with edits
 - iii. Mike Litwin seconds
 - iv. Approved unanimously
- b. Assess EC 2008 Goals and Progress on Annual Work Plan
 - i. Will be reevaluated next month
- c. Company will be selling 1250 Earth Machines in a one day sale. Lucille Bertuccio would like the EC and BCOS to approve the event and help advertise.
 - i. Commissioners comfortable with promoting the event as long as it is clear that the EC does not endorse or promote one particular brand of compost apparatus over another.
 - ii. Heather Reynolds motions to participate in Lucille's request to promote the event but not endorse the company.
 - iii. Laura Trout seconds
 - iv. Approved unanimously

VI. Old Business

- a. Cost of Growth Report
 - i. Intern Mark Lemon will work to get Mayor's office approval so the report can be posted on the EC website
 - ii. The report will be presented to the City Council in late July
 - iii. Intern Mark Lemon will draft a press release for the report in conjunction with the sustainable economy statement
- b. Sustainable Economy Statement
 - i. Heather Reynolds will finalize the statement so it can be posted on the EC website
 - ii. Statement will be presented to the City Council in late July
 - iii. Intern Mark Lemon will draft a press release for the report in conjunction with the cost of growth report

VII. Adjournment

- a. Tom McGlasson motions to adjourn
- b. Heather Reynolds seconds
- c. Approved unanimously

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ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, May 22, 2008

7:00 pm

City Hall – McCloskey Room

401 North Morton Street

Attending: Kelly Boatman, Laura Trout, Heather Reynolds, Tom McGlasson, Don Moore, Mike Tosick
(arrived at 9:00 p.m.), Mark Lemon

Absent: Mike Litwin, Jacqui Bauer, Kriste Lindberg, Phaedra Pezzullo, Jacob Mazer, Linda Thompson

Chair Kelly Boatman called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

*Note: meeting order altered from agenda because no quorum. Notes inserted to indicate changes.
Additionally, April meeting notes were not approved and will be approved at June 19 Environmental
Commission meeting.*

- I. Introductions
- II. Announcements
 - a. Next Environmental Commission meeting: Thursday, June 19th, 7:00 pm, McCloskey Room
 - b. Next Planning Committee meetings: Friday, May 23rd & Wednesday, June 4th, 4:00 pm, Planning Dept.
- III. Public Comment
 - a. Steve Forrest
 - i. Now is a good time to seize initiative on transportation reform. Current gas prices create a climate where citizens will take notice and have a sense of urgency on the issue. Steve would like to see the Environmental Commission and other city entities take on alternative transportation and seize on this moment.
 - ii. The mayor is asking Dan Burton of walkable communities to come back as a consultant with the planning department.
- IV. Reports
 - a. Staff Reports
 - i. Kelly Boatman reporting for Jacob Mazer
 - 1. Working to update Environmental Commission website
 - 2. Updating BEQI report– specifically the water consumption and transportation figures
 - 3. Worked the table at Jordan River Fest
 - ii. Mark Lemon
 - 1. Will discuss Cost of Growth report later in meeting



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2. Met with Assistant Director of Economic Development Adam Wason about conducting the greenhouse gas inventory for the city this summer. Mark will be working with new Bloomington Commission on Sustainability Intern Patrick Foley on the project. Adam hopes the funding will be in place next week for the ICLEI software to begin conducting the inventory.
- iii. Kelly Boatman: Public Works Department wants the EC office space. Planning Department Director Tom Micuda is working to find duplicate space for the EC.

b. Planning Committee

i. ECPC Report

1. 2 Memos

a. Big O – Smith and Walnut

- i. 4 stories, 54 bedrooms
- ii. Good features of project: White roof – reflects sunlight, limits heat
- iii. Issues with the project: Void-to-Solid ratio of 70% called for in UDO. EC still favorable because plan for mixed use on first floor.
- iv. Recommendations:
 1. Greenbuilding
 2. Recycling
 3. Working with the Planning Department to make the building pedestrian friendly

b. Villages at 10th and College

- i. 45 units, 116 bedrooms, swimming pool
- ii. Approved last year, developer pulled plans and is resubmitting
- iii. Good features of project:
 1. Extra bike space
- iv. Recommendations:
 1. Make more pedestrian friendly – current plan does not meet 70% void-to-solid ratio. The ratio in the current plan is only 45%. Only the southwest corner is commercial.
 2. More convertible space
 3. Recycling
 4. Green building

2. UDO Revision List – Planning Department Director Tom Micuda wants the list of EC recommendations by the end of May

a. Current Recommendations

- i. Tree Preservation – close canopy cover loop hole



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- ii. Green Building – currently no code for green building standards, only incentives. The EC feels it is time to move to minimum requirements.
- iii. Void-to-Solid Ratio – the Planning Dept. says current 70% ratio too high; the market does not allow for this high a ratio. The EC wants to make sure the ratio stays high enough and that transitional mechanisms are included to meet the long-term vision of a pedestrian-friendly community is reached.
- iv. Stream Buffer Standards – currently all-or-nothing at 75 feet. Need more flexibility.
- v. Mixed Income Design – require varied cost housing
- vi. Landscaping Standards – guidelines for use of native species
- vii. Promote Reuse
- b. Recommendations to be Added to EC List:
 - i. Requirements to provide future tenants with past utility audit or bill of apartment or house
 - ii. Water conservation measures
 - iii. Granny flats

V. New Business

Note: Meeting order altered from agenda because Environmental Commission not at quorum until 9:00 p.m., when Mike Tosick arrives.

- a. Griffy Lake Master Plan
 - i. Vision for the park – how should the City manage the plan for the Griffy Lake park?
 - ii. Mike Litwin needs comments by May 27. Email him with any comments.
Comments will be submitted to ERAQ by June 4.
 - 1. Phaedra Pezzullo expressed concern about the vegetation plan over email
- b. Bloomington Water Supply
 - i. On May 12 the Utilities Service Board approved a plan to expand the Bloomington Water Treatment Plant from 24 million gallons per day (mgd) to 30 mgd, with the capacity to expand further to 36 mgd.
 - ii. The EC was not informed that a decision would be made concerning the plan until one day before and thus had no time to evaluate the plan and offer recommendations.
 - iii. Arguments at USB Meeting in Favor of Expansion: The current treatment plant is near capacity. At peak times the plant operates within 90% of capacity. This level triggers warnings from IDEM.
 - iv. Arguments against:



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1. Instead of expanding the facility the city should address peaks in demand by conserving.
2. Only 40% of consumption is residential.
3. No discussion of who will pay.
4. Black and Veatch received a no-bid contract to do the expansion
- v. A Citizen's Board is being formed to address the issue. The EC should have representation. The next step in the building process is that the City Council must approve the rate increase that is proposed to fund the expansion.
- vi. The EC should invite a speaker for and against the expansion to attend an EC meeting and discuss the proposal.

VI. Old Business

- a. Jordan River Fest and Native Plant Giveaway at Farmer's Market
 - i. Both events were successful. In total 170 plants were given away.

VII. New Business

Note: Mike Tosick arrives at 9:00 p.m., thus Environmental Commission reaches a quorum

- a. Cost of Growth Report
 - i. Mark Lemon presented latest version of the report. Outstanding methodology issues with the report included:
 1. Discussion of capital outlays. The current analysis looks at year to year outlays, which does little to illustrate trends because of wide variation in year-to-year spending. A suggested revision was to show 5 year rolling trends in spending to see if over a longer time interval the trend in capital spending is increasing.
 2. School Facilities. There are two issues with school facilities. One is that there are students who live within the city of Bloomington who attend schools outside the city limits, and students who live outside the city limits that attend schools inside the city. The second issue is the difficulty in determining funding levels coming from the City of Bloomington versus Monroe County. These issues combined make it difficult to assign a cost of growth for the city. A suggested remedy is to use the most recently constructed school – Summit Elementary – as a case study to examine school costs.
 3. Transportation – The current analysis looks at the costs incurred by the city for projected growth and related projects. The issue with this analysis is it is difficult to determine what proportion of costs can be assigned to growth as opposed to standard maintenance. To address this, costs incurred by the city for past projects that can be related to growth will be analyzed.
 4. Kelly Boatman motioned to give power to the Cost of Growth Committee to finalize the report prior to the next meeting.



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- a. Heather Reynolds seconded
 - b. Passed unanimously
- 5. Mark Lemon will make the advised edits and work with the Cost of Growth Committee to finalize the Cost of Growth in Bloomington report by the June 19, 2008 Environmental Commission meeting.
- b. Heather Reynolds motioned to extend meeting to 9:55 p.m.
 - i. Don Moore seconded
 - ii. Motion passed - 4 yea, 2 nay
- c. Sustainable Economy Statement
 - i. The purpose of this statement is to establish a position to help guide Bloomington on specific actions and goals concerning economic development and growth.
 - ii. An issue raised with a statement on sustainable economy is whether the EC is the correct body to issue such a statement. Should this be an issue raised by the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS)?
 - iii. Response to the above issue is that the EC is focused on sustainability, especially because it is so intertwined with the environment and consumption/use of resources. A further argument was made that the EC already invited BCOS to join them in studying the issue and BCOS was not interested. It was suggested that the EC should make a statement and all other entities that agree should join the statement.
 - iv. Another concern raised was the small number of commissioners present at the May meeting. Some commissioners expressed concern making a decision on an issue that has been so contentious for such a long time. A suggestion was put forward to conduct a discussion online so as to get a better feel for where all commissioners stand on the issue.
 - v. Response to the above concern is that there are often absent commissioners and this has been a priority for a long time for the EC with no movement.
 - vi. A last concern was raised about item 5 in the second section, regarding the definition and implementation of economic development.
 - vii. Heather Reynolds motioned to adopt the Sustainable Economy Statement pending corrections to item 5.
 - 1. Mike Tosick seconded
 - 2. Motion passed – 4 yea, 2 nay

VIII. Adjournment

- a. Mike Tosick motioned to adjourn
- b. Tom McGlasson seconded
- c. Approved unanimously

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, April 17, 2008

7:00 pm

City Hall – McCloskey Room

401 North Morton Street

Attending: Kelly Boatman, Mike Litwin, Laura Trout, Jacqui Bauer, Heather Reynolds, Don Moore, Kriste Lindberg, Phaedra Pezzullo, Mike Tosick, Mark Lemon, Jacob

Mazer, Linda Thompson

Absent: Tom McGlasson

Chair Kelly Boatman called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

I. Announcements

- a. Next Environmental Commission meeting: Thursday, May 22nd, 2008, 7:00 pm, McCloskey Room
- b. Next Planning Committee meetings: Fri., April 18th; & Wed., April 30th, 2008, 4:00 pm, Planning Dept.

II. Approval of Minutes

- a. Heather Reynolds, Jacqui Bauer, and Linda Thompson submitted edits to March minutes online.
- b. Heather Reynolds motioned to approve minutes with online edits
- c. Mike Tosick seconded
- d. Passed unanimously

III. Public Comment

- a. Rick Alexander – Assistant Manager of Engineering
 - i. Engineering has begun work on the problem with the bridge at 1st and Walnut. Thanks to Mike Litwin for bringing it to the Engineering Department's attention.
 - ii. Other Problems Engineering is Currently Working On
 1. Villages at Muller Park – This is a huge complex, and Engineering is working to make sure they are conducting effective tracking.
 2. Smith Road Apartments – Problems with trash on the site; notices have been sent and fines assessed.
 3. O'Reilly Auto Parts – The new store is open but site work is not yet complete.
 4. The new IU data center at the end of Range Road needs a lot of cleanup work but is out of the city's purview, so Commissioners should contact IU directly.
 - iii. Please email Rick Alexander or Linda Thompson if any additional problem sites are identified.

IV. Reports

- a. Staff Reports
 - i. Mark Lemon and Jacob Mazer will remain with the Environmental Commission as summer interns. Mark's primary responsibility will be

working on the city's greenhouse gas inventory. Jacob will work on updates to the UDO, BEQI webpage, and work at EC events.

ii. Jacob Mazer

1. Rachel Atz in Utilities is sending Jacob information on city water consumption to resolve the difference between CBU and BEQI discrepancies. Kelly Boatman and Jacob will look at the new numbers and decide whether the BEQI website should be edited or taken down due to the new information.
2. New transportation basics page is posted to the website
3. Jacob is waiting on new software from ITS to enable posting the new BEQI bicycle page.
4. Commissioners should review the new EC page on the updated Bloomington City website and send things to add, edit, or change to Jacob

b. Planning Committee

i. ECPC Report

1. EC submitted memos on 3 proposals
 - a. Phoenix – Encouraged complete streets and increased landscaping, both of which were supported by the Planning Department. EC also suggested introducing more native species. Last, EC suggested a recycling plan, which received an “unofficial” yes.
 - b. North Gate – Primary issue is impervious surface. Currently the site is 7% pervious surface. That amount for the plan is 24%. This is still below the UDO policy, which calls for 40%. The EC also recommended site plan improvements, from native species to building materials, consistent with the ‘gateway’ location of this development.
 - c. Station 11 – There are many good environmental features on this project, including a green roof, use of recycling, green interior design, and landscape architecture consistent with complete streets. This petition passed unanimously, which the EC applauds.

ii. Senior Environmental Planner – Linda Thompson

1. 10th and Morton – Villages at 10th and College
 - a. 45 units, 116 bedrooms. The bottom floor will be “convertible.” It will initially be apartments but can be converted into commercial space. There is currently no landscape plan. The petition is asking for a variance from the 70% first floor void-to-solid requirement, with a plan for only 45% void-to-solid.
 - b. Only 2 minor nods to EC concerns are included in the site plan:
 - i. Proposal to use brick from existing sidewalk to make the new sidewalk
 - ii. Say they will “investigate” using “Energy Star” equipment.

c. Green Building Committee

- i. Working with City Council members on details of the green building ordinance. There have been issues with the longevity of the payback period and how to determine what a “major” renovation is. Jacob Mazer has supplied additional information to help with these issues.
 - ii. Carol Krause, writer for the Home Section of the Herald-Times, is interested in running the green building article that the EC submitted to the Herald-Times as a guest editorial last year.
 - iii. Kelly Boatman requested the EC be notified when the ordinance goes before the City Council
 - d. Greenhouse Gas Reduction Committee
 - i. Kelly Boatman attended last committee meeting concerning decision on what software to use to conduct the city’s greenhouse gas inventory. The recommendation from the committee was to become a member of the International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) for the remainder of 2008. ICLEI provides software to conduct the analysis, as well as resources to help conduct the survey and create an effective action plan. Other communities in the area, including Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Madison, WI, and Ann Arbor, MI are members of ICLEI. The cost of ICLEI membership will be approximately \$900 for the remainder of the year. The EC will be responsible for 1/3 of the cost.
 - 1. Jacqui Bauer motioned to vote to recommend using ICLEI for the remainder of 2008 to the Mayor and City Council.
 - 2. Mike Litwin seconded
 - 3. Passed unanimously
 - ii. Christine Glaser of BCOS suggested bringing the Low Carbon Diet Initiative to the city.
 - iii. Christine Glaser of BCOS suggested bringing Dan Burden back to the city to give another talk on Complete Streets. The EC is interested in co-sponsoring this event with BCOS.
 - e. Education Committee
 - i. The new website to post all environmental education events happening in the city is up. Commissioners should look at it and make suggestions. One issue is that the EC’s name is currently nowhere on the page.
 - ii. The education committee would like to keep an emphasis on projects such as the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day event.
 - f. Cost of Growth Committee
 - i. The Cost of Growth in Bloomington report will be finalized at the May 22 EC meeting. In order to do this, Mark Lemon will send out the revised report by Friday, April 25. Commissioners can then review the report and submit comments by Monday, May 12. Mark will then incorporate the suggestions and resend the report by Thursday, May 15.
 - ii. The Committee will also work on language for a statement on a steady state economy to be discussed and potentially voted on at the May 22 EC meeting
 - g. Commissioners Reports
 - i. Mike Tosick – The next Tree Commission meeting is tomorrow, April 18. The Commission is close to finalizing a new city tree ordinance.
 - ii. Mike Litwin
 - 1. The new Griffy Lake Master Plan is due at the end of April. Approval of the plan will occur in June. There will be a steering committee meeting on May 7. There was a big showing at the

public meeting concerning Griffy Lake, so there is definitely community interest.

2. Want to make sure that the EC is keeping up on the updates to the UDO.

- a. Kelly Boatman suggested the ECPC should make a list of things that committee noticed needed to be changed, and coordinate tracking UDO updates through Jacob Mazer.

iii. Heather Reynolds

1. Would like to thank Jacqui Bauer, Kriste Lindberg, and Linda Thompson for helping to pot plants for the EC's native plant give-a-way.
2. The recent increased in price of food is helping to illustrate problems with biofuels. The USA is focused on corn, while sugar cane and switch grass grown on marginal lands without substantial fossil fuel-based inputs are more sustainable sources of biofuels.

- iv. Kriste Lindberg - Will be attending the APA conference in Las Vegas. The conference will incorporate developers from around the country. Will talk to people and look for information on sustainable development.

V. New Business

a. Cost of Growth Draft Report

- i. Report will be emailed by Mark Lemon by next Friday, April 25. Commissioners should submit edits by Monday, May 12. Mark will resend the updated report by Thursday, May 15. A vote on final approval will occur at the May 22 EC meeting.

b. Jordan River Fest

- i. The event will occur on Sunday, May 18 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the IU Art Museum Atrium. Jacob Mazer will work at the table.
- ii. EC will conduct tabling at the event. There will be a plant giveaway, either raffling a hibiscus or giving away riparian plants. Literature will be distributed on native plants, the BEQI water page, Got Aquarium?, and Hoosier River Watch.

c. Native Plant Giveaway

- i. Saturday, May 17 at the Farmers' Market. Jacob Mazer and Heather Reynolds will work. Native plants will be distributed, along with fact sheets on BEQI.

d. Brochure and Fact Sheet Distribution

- i. 100 BEQI fact sheets need to be printed by May 15 for the Jordan River Fest and Native Plant Giveaway events.

e. Street Tree Report

- i. A report conducted by Burney Fischer of SPEA named how many vacant tree spots exist in the city and how much street trees costs.
- ii. A letter from the EC to the City Council will be drafted asking to budget more money for street trees.
- iii. Mike Tosick will also draft a letter to the editor drawing attention to the benefits of street trees as green infrastructure and suggesting that purchasing a street tree in a loved one's name is a great gift for graduation or other special events.

VI. Old Business

- a. Earth Week
 - i. Public service announcement approved by the Mayor's office. It has been distributed to local radio stations.
- b. EC Guest Speakers
 - i. It was suggested to invite someone from the utility board to speak about the updates to water treatment facilities.
 - ii. John Garden is a potential resource on energy issues if the correct time and forum present themselves.
 - iii. Mia Williams gives a good talk on LEED certification.

VII. Adjournment

- a. Jacqui Bauer motioned to adjourn
- b. Heather Reynolds seconded
- c. unanimous

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, March 27, 2008

7:00 pm

City Hall – McCloskey Room

401 North Morton Street

Attending: Kelly Boatman, Mike Litwin, Jacqui Bauer, Heather Reynolds, Tom McGlasson, Mark Lemon, Jacob Mazer, Linda Thompson, Laura Trout

Absent: Don Moore, Kriste Lindberg, Mike Tosick, Phaedra Pezzullo

Chair Kelly Boatman called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

- I. Announcements
 - a. Next Environmental Commission Meeting: Thursday, April 17, 2008, 7:00 p.m., McClosky Room
 - b. Next EC Planning Committee Meeting: Wednesday, April 2, 4:00 p.m., Planning Dept.
- II. Public Comment
 - a. Steve Forrest
 - i. Attended MPO Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting – MPO discussed the “Complete Streets” initiative (recently presented to Bloomington by BTOP guest speaker Dan Burton). This initiative considers all modes of transportation and supports Environmental Commission goals such as reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT).
 - ii. This is the year to take action on greenhouse gas emissions. The mayor has committed to reducing emissions in the city by 7% below 1990 levels by 2012. Would like to see the Environmental Commission, make this a priority by providing a series of steps to reach the goal. Steve feels that alternative transportation offers the greatest potential for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Bloomington. Christine Glaser of the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability is working on a transportation summit.
 - b. Chris Eller
 - i. Observing the meeting, might be interested in joining the EC.
- III. Reports
 - a. Staff
 - i. Jacob Mazer
 - 1. Met with Rachel Atz concerning discrepancies in water consumption numbers supplied by Bloomington Utilities. It appears the difference is because of differences between the amount of water pumped versus the amount of water billed. In previous years, the EC was given data recorded as the billed amount.
 - 2. The BEQI bicycle web page will be posted tomorrow.

3. Working with Francie Gary in the Mayor's office to test greenhouse gas inventory software.
- ii. Mark Lemon
 1. Continuing work on revising Cost of Growth in Bloomington report. Key changes are eliminating or fully explaining discrepancy in data and talking more about how to quantify growth related costs instead of attempting to assign costs.
- b. Planning
 - i. ECPC Report – Jacqui Bauer
 1. Morton North (old Honda site) – granted variance from tree preservation ordinance
 2. Aqua Pro (S. Walnut) – development of area with creek and tree buffers. Requested 4 variances to the UDO buffer requirements. A concern is old cars that sit on the lot have contributed to soil contamination. County zoning approved all variances. It is the EC's opinion that the EC was not given proper time to consider the variance proposals and weigh in with an opinion. Kelly will submit a letter to the zoning commission asking for ample notice to the Environmental Planner on future zoning variance requests with environmental concerns.
 - ii. Senior Environmental Planner – Linda Thompson
 1. Roosters Motel (S. Walnut) – Slightly changed design. Made 2 separate buildings 1 building.
 2. North Gate – Unacceptable landscaping plan. Asking for buffer yard variance among other variances.
 3. Station 11 (11th and N. College) – No environmental issues. One of the more green building proposals we have seen.
 4. Big O Properties (Smith and Walnut) – continued
 5. Aqua Pro – Following UDO requirements would have made property unable to be developed, raising a takings concern. Linda reiterated Jacqui's comment that she was not kept in the loop about this development.
 6. A question was raised about whether Ridgefield was approved and whether a vegetated buffer was put in along the north end as requested by the EC. Linda answered in the affirmative to both questions.
- c. Green Building Committee – Jacqui Bauer
 - i. Green building ordinance continues to be in process with the city council
 - ii. Will resubmit the green building column, this time trying the Home section of the Herald-Times.
 - iii. Heather noted that the greenspace column also needed to be resubmitted, this time trying the Down to Earth section of the Herald-Times.

- iv. Kelly noted that the EC should let “Down to Earth” know that the EC is a resource for stories on environmental issues.
- d. Greenhouse Gas Reduction Committee – Jacob Mazer
 - i. ICLEI software being tested for greenhouse gas inventory. EC is seeing if it is worth the investment. The EC will pay ¼ of the costs. There are 3 or 4 other options.
- e. Education Committee – Kriste Lindberg (via email)
 - i. The committee could use more EC members (outnumbered by BCOS)
 - ii. Form for website to post environmental education events finalized
 - iii. Jordan River Fest is May 18
- f. Cost of Growth – Heather Reynolds
 - i. Continuing work on revising Cost of Growth in Bloomington report. Key changes are eliminating variables for which we cannot get accurate data, more fully explaining data constraints and the different ways to approach the analysis, and talking more about how to quantify growth related costs instead of attempting to assign costs.

IV. Commissioners Reports

- a. Heather Reynolds
 - i. Few hundred seedlings growing in basement for EC giveaway of native plants and natural landscaping information in April. Can anyone provide greenhouse space for the plants?
- b. Kelly Boatman
 - i. Will attend the April BCOS meeting so EC and BCOS can be on the same page.
 - ii. WFIU’s “Environmental Minute” radio program wants sponsorship – Kelly is checking on the cost.
 - iii. ECOLAB training on green site building will be held April 16 in Indianapolis. Linda will be attending if anyone wants to join her.

V. Approval of Minutes

- a. Electronic edits submitted by members of the commission.
- b. Additional edits given at meeting.
- c. Jacqui Bauer: Motion to approve February Minutes with suggested edits
- d. Heather Reynolds: Second
- e. Pass unanimously

VI. New Business

- a. Earth Week Planning
 - i. Ideas
 - 1. campaign to get individuals to calculate carbon footprint
 - 2. consider tying in with the Green Sanctuary low carbon diet initiative

- 3. reissue relevant past information
 - 4. ecological footprint measurement
 - ii. Public Service Announcement
 - 1. Jacob can draft a PSA for Earth Week that focuses on ecological footprint, low carbon diet, etc.
- b. EC Guest Speakers
 - i. Ideas
 - 1. Biovillages – John Russell – professor of landscape design
 - a. Heather Reynolds will follow up with
 - 2. John Garden – alternative look at energy
 - a. Laura Trout will follow up with
 - 3. Christine Glazer (BCOS) – training seminar with Dan Burton on “complete streets”
 - a. Kelly Boatman will follow up with
- c. MPO CAC Representative
 - i. EC has a seat on the committee. Need a liaison to keep up with the minutes. Jacqui Bauer has been attending.
 - ii. Could ask Steve Forrest to represent the EC.
 - iii. Jacqui offered to keep attending, perhaps just not every time. Kelly suggested that Jacqui review the agenda packet and review the minutes from the last meeting, and based on this decide on whether it is worth going in any given month.

VII. Old Business

- a. EC Budget
 - i. Request submitted – same as last year
- b. PCB Comment Letter
 - i. Submitted

VIII. Adjournment

- a. Tom McGlasson: motion to adjourn
- b. Jacqui Bauer: second
- c. Approved unanimously

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, February 28, 2008

7:00 pm

City Hall – McCloskey Room

401 North Morton Street

Attending: Kelly Boatman, Kriste Lindberg, Laura Trout, Mike Litwin, Phaedra Pezzullo, Jacqui Bauer, Heather Reynolds, Mike Tosick, Mark Lemon, Jacob Mazer, Linda Thompson

Absent: Don Moore, Tom McGlasson

Chair Kelly Boatman called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

- I. Announcements
 - a. Next Environmental Commission meeting: Thursday, March 20th, 2008, 7:00 pm, McCloskey Room
 - b. Next Planning Committee meetings: Wed. March 5th, 4:00 pm, Planning Dept.
 - c. Next Education Committee meeting: Mon. March 24th, 5:15–6:15 pm, Room 207 MCPL
 - d. Griffy Lake Management Plan information tables will be in the City Council Chambers on March 3 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Tables will have different topics relating to the plan, where people can give input or gather information.
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Electronic edits submitted by members of the commission.
 - b. Additional edits given at meeting.
 - c. Jacqui Bauer: Motion to approve January Minutes with suggested edits
 - d. Laura Trout: Second
 - e. Pass unanimously
- III. Public Comment
 - a. Steve Forrest, citizen
 - i. Students from Burney Fischer's IU-SPEA Urban Forestry class are conducting case studies in 8 neighborhoods throughout Bloomington conducting inventories, including a street tree inventory, and making recommendations for future use. The students will present their findings to the local neighborhood associations.
 - b. Isabel Piedmont, Bloomington City Council
 - i. Attended Indiana Build Green Symposium. Great wealth of information from leading builders, architects, and designers in the field.
 - c. Matt Smethurst, City Engineering
 - i. 3 current grading permits issued.
 - d. Dave Rollo, Bloomington City Council

- i. The city council will be voting on a resolution opposing back-country logging.

IV. Reports

a. Staff Reports

i. Jacob Mazer

- 1. BEQI Bikes web page and Transportation Basics web page have been completed and circulated to the Environmental Commission by email. Feedback on either report is appreciated.

b. Planning Committee

i. ECPC – Mike Litwin

- 1. 2 petitions considered
 - a. Prow Road – continued to March
 - b. Woolery – there is sidewalk on both sides of the street. The sidewalk on the east side of the street cuts into a tree preservation line, so the EC spoke out against this sidewalk. The sidewalk was voted down 6 – 3.

ii. Senior Environmental Planner – Linda Thompson

- 1. Morton North – is on the Planning Commission agenda for the next meeting. An issue is variance in greenspace tree preservation, the current plan calls for less than what the UDO prescribes.
- 2. Prow Road Subdivision – City Utilities found problems with maintenance of the proposed pervious pavement, so they are no longer planning to use the pervious surface. The new plan is to make the streets convex.
- 3. Keith Clay bought a house on 4th St. and is opening a coffee shop and antique store
- 4. Roosters Motel on S Walnut – Want to build 3 new buildings with 122 units and 153 parking spaces on the old sites. A potential issue is destruction of the riparian buffer to the adjacent creek.
- 5. North Gate – Will be voted on at next Planning Commission meeting. Issue is variance of permeable surface. The lot currently has 7% greenspace, the developer is proposing 24%, and the UDO calls for 40%.
- 6. 11th and College – The architect is LEED certified and the commercial and apartment complex will have many green features, including more landscaping, a recycling area, and a partially green roof.

c. Green Building Committee – Mike Tosick

- i. Talking through details of the green building ordinance with members of the City Council.

d. Greenhouse Gas Reduction Committee – Mike Tosick

- i. Working on ideas for the city to enact greenhouse gas reduction commitment. Potential for an initiative on sustainable transportation. This is based on Dan Burton's talk, and the EC may want him to come back to formulate a platform.
 - ii. Jacob is working on monitoring. There is software that can track greenhouse gas emissions, at a cost of \$300. Appropriating \$300 for the software will be discussed in the March meeting.
- e. Education – Phaedra Pezzullo and Kriste Lindberg
 - i. Phaedra Pezzullo – IU Sustainability Taskforce has posted webspace for advertising K-12 education events for any environmental group
 - ii. Kriste Lindberg –
 - 1. Energy talk on March 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the MCPC Auditorium
 - 2. The EC gave \$50 for the Jordan River Festival
- f. Cost of Growth – Heather Reynolds
 - i. Looking at budget trends from 1990 to the present to identify trends as potentially related to growth.
 - ii. Feedback from the Planning Department regarding Cost of Growth in Bloomington report
 - 1. define growth
 - 2. inconsistency of data
- g. Commissioners Reports
 - i. Jacqui Bauer – Attended last Metro Planning Organization Meeting. Are any other commissioners interested in being the EC representative?
 - ii. Kelly Boatman – Each EC Commissioner should check the EC website to make sure their biographical information is up to date.

V. New Business

- a. Griffy Lake Vegetation Management Plan – Steve Cotter, Parks and Recreation Department Natural Resource Manager
 - i. The Griffy Lake Vegetation Management Plan is currently being updated by Parks and Recreation in consultation with Aquatic Control Incorporated. The plan calls to increase alternative controls for curly leaf pond weed to reestablish native plants.
 - ii. EC members expressed concern about a conflict of interest because a company with an interest in promoting chronic large use of herbicide is playing an integral role in writing the plan. The initial plan was to eliminate Eolidia from Griffy Lake, and now the plan has changed to eliminating all invasive species. It seems that alternatives to chemical treatment need to be investigated more fully.
 - iii. Mike Litwin will facilitate a letter from the EC to Parks and Recreation expressing the EC's concerns about the current plan to be submitted next week.

- b. EC Budget 2008-2009
 - i. Changes in salaries/wages and consultants/workshops line-items.
 - ii. Budget to be voted on in March.
- c. Morgan-Monroe State Forest Logging Petition
 - i. Should the EC sign a petition to oppose logging in a 100 acre parcel of backcountry in Morgan-Monroe State Forest?
 - ii. Arguments For:
 - 1. A local issue because part of forest is in Monroe County
 - 2. Tie to the Greenspace Report as a larger initiative
 - 3. EC's reaction to state level change in priority regarding preservation
 - 4. Mayor Kruzan and the City Council have signed the petition, and the City Council is creating a resolution to oppose the logging
 - 5. Mature ecosystems provide services to the community.
 - iii. Arguments Against:
 - 1. Outside the scope of the EC, not a city issue
 - 2. If we join this petition will the EC join every forest issue? Where does the EC draw the line?
 - iv. Jacqui Bauer: Motion to vote on approving EC signing Morgan-Monroe State Forest Logging Petition
 - v. Mike Tosick: second
 - vi. Vote:
 - 1. 4 approve
 - 2. 1 oppose
 - 3. 3 abstain
 - vii. Motion does not pass
 - viii. All EC members encouraged to sign as individuals if they so choose
- d. PCBs
 - i. Phaedra Pezzullo suggested an amendment to PCB remediation consent decree that requests the city's right to be updated on the remediation process as it occurs and to be notified if documents are to be destroyed. There is currently a 30 day comment period on the amendment.
 - ii. A statement will be drafted by Phaedra and circulated via email to be submitted by Kelly before the comment period ends March 26.
 - iii. Jacqui Bauer: Motion to approve letter be approved over email
 - iv. Laura Trout: second
 - v. Approved unanimously

VI. Old Business

- a. EC 2008 Work Plan
 - i. The work plan is a "living document" and not set in stone.
- b. EC Vacancies
 - i. Currently applications in the Mayor's office

- c. EC Adopt a Community
 - i. City legal department said no, there are liability and insurance issues.
 - ii. Go back to legal to see if it is alright to just send resources.

- VII. Adjournment
 - a. Jacqui Bauer: Motion to adjourn
 - b. Mike Tosick: Second
 - c. Approved unanimously

BLOOMINGTON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, January 17, 2008

7:00 pm

City Hall – McCloskey Room

401 North Morton Street

Attending: Kelly Boatman, Kriste Lindberg, Laura Trout, Mike Litwin, Phaedra Pezzullo, Jacqui Bauer, Don Moore, Heather Reynolds, Mike Tosick, Tom McGlasson, Mark Lemon

Absent: Linda Thompson

Chair Kelly Boatman called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

I. Announcements

- a. Next Environmental Commission meeting: Thursday, February 21, 2008, 7:00 p.m., McCloskey Room, City Hall
- b. Next Planning Committee meetings: Friday, January 18 and Wednesday, January 30, 2008, 4:00 p.m., Planning Dept
- c. Next Education Committee meeting: Monday, February 4, 2008, 5:15 p.m., Indiana Room at the Monroe County Public Library
- d. Next Green Building Committee meeting: Friday, January 19, 2008, 2:00 p.m., McCloskey Room, City Hall
- e. Announcements from Chair Kelly Boatman
 - i. Officers for 2008:
 1. Chair: Kelly Boatman
 2. Vice Chair: Phaedra Pezzullo
 3. Secretary/Treasurer: Mike Tosick
 4. Staff Coordinator: Phaedra Pezzullo
 5. Interns: Mark Lemon and Jacob Mazer
 6. Council/BCOS Liaison: Dave Rollo
 7. Tree Committee Rep.: Mick Tosick
 8. ERAC Rep.: Mike Litwin
 9. MPO CAC Rep. (Tentatively): Jacqui Bauer
 - ii. 2 vacancies on the Environmental Commission. Anyone who is interested should apply. All applicants must live within the city limits of Bloomington.
 - iii. Green Building Symposium being held in Indianapolis January 31 and February 1. City Councilwoman Isabel Piedmont is attending if anyone wants to go with her.
 - iv. Dan Burton from walkable communities will be speaking in Indianapolis on January 18 in Bloomington on Saturday, January 19 at the City Hall Council Chambers from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

- v. In an effort to reduce the amount of email being sent over the EC listserv, emails should be directed to the concerned committee or chair, not the Environmental Commission at large
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Electronic edits submitted by members of the commission.
 - b. Additional edits given at meeting
 - c. Phaedra Pezzullo: Motion to approve November Minutes with suggested edits
 - d. Heather Reynolds: Second
 - e. Passed unanimously
- III. Public Comment
 - a. Rick Alexander – City Engineering
 - i. 8 people are currently working in the department. There are 2 vacancies, one which was just filled and one still vacant. The engineering department is currently short-handed.
 - ii. Current project: Villages at Muller Park – installing the water line
 - iii. Matt Smethurst is currently doing site visits
 - iv. Will speak with Matt about giving a 2007 year end summary
- IV. Guest Presentation: Mr. Mick Harrison, Esq., citizen update on PCB remediation efforts
 - a. Continuing problems with PCB levels in Bloomington from use of PCBs at Westinghouse from 1958-1977.
 - b. Current EPA risk assessments on PCB levels are limited; they do not look at enough criteria. What is needed is a large-scale calculation of how many PCBs were released in the entire manufacturing process.
 - c. Current solutions do not go far enough to fully deal with the problem.
 - d. Karst issue exacerbates the PCB problem
 - e. Recommendations:
 - i. Focus should be on prevention of exposure, not treatment for exposure.
 - ii. Bloomington should start formal dialogue on how to stop PCB contamination. The city government should align with the opinion of its citizens to actively stop PCBs, instead of aligning with EPA and polluters.
 - iii. Burden should be on the producer, not the victim. The approach in the Bloomington community is currently the opposite and needs to change.
- V. Reports
 - a. Staff Reports
 - i. Jacob Mazer will remain as EC intern until May 1, 2008
 - ii. Mark Lemon – Cost of Growth

1. Collected follow-up information on property tax revenue for the city to compare to the costs of growth in December 2007 report. Initial analysis looks as though costs outpace revenue.
- b. Planning Committee
 - i. ECPC Report – Heather Reynolds
 1. The EC submitted memos on 4 petitions. Three were downtown and the EC memo concerned exotic invasive species, which will be worked on. The memos also encourage green building and recycling.
 2. Doug Bruce, who is an architect involved with a recent petition, will be taking the LEED exam.
 3. Woolery development will cluster homes, leaving more green space and creating a tree preservation area. The EC supports this development.
 - c. Green Building Committee – Jacqui Bauer and Mike Tosick
 - i. Tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. in the McCloskey Room of City Hall there will be a public meeting, the purpose of which is a brainstorm effort for 2008.
 - ii. City Council members Isabel Piedmont and Dave Rollo are restructuring the Green Building Ordinance and moving forward to get it passed
 - iii. Jacqui Bauer submitted a guest column to the Herald Times that has not been run
 - d. Greenhouse Gas Reduction Committee – Mike Tosick
 - i. Want to work to promote ideas of how to reach city reduction goals to the mayor
 - ii. The committee needs new members
 - iii. Working to get an intern to work on monitoring emissions
 - e. Education Committee – Phaedra Pezzullo
 - i. Next Education Committee meeting is Monday, February 4 at 5:15 p.m. in the Indiana Room at the Monroe County Public Library
 - ii. Emphasis this year will be focusing education events that are of interest to different community groups
 - iii. Beth Shalom will be doing a greenhouse gas speaker series
 - f. BEQI Committee – Phaedra Pezzullo
 - i. Jacob is preparing a webpage on biking, which will be circulated before the next meeting
 - g. Commissioners Reports
 - i. Heather Reynolds: The 2007 Bloomington Environmental Commission end of year report is almost completed

VI. New Business

- a. EC 2008 Priorities and Work Plan
 - i. Projects (proposed)
 1. Cost of Growth

2. Ecological Footprint Initiative
3. Grey Water/Storm Water Capture and Reuse
4. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Monitoring
5. CASSE Steady State Economy Position
 - a. Discussion to potentially combine Cost of Growth and CASSE; Ecological Footprint Initiative and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Monitoring
6. Other suggested projects:
 - a. Liberia sister city: EC would serve in an advisory role with a city in Liberia. Jacqui Bauer would serve as the liaison for the EC. Susie Johnson in Public Works has offered to help. For the next meeting Jacqui will put in writing what the project is and Kelly will submit it to the city legal department for written approval. The EC will vote next month contingent on approval from legal.
 - b. PCB's: Since the EC is having 2 presentations on current state of PCBs it was suggested it should be a priority. There will be a discussion at the March meeting, following the 2 presentations, on potential action.
7. Chair Kelly Boatman will write out a formal list of projects to be voted on at the next meeting
- ii. Committees
 1. Steering
 2. Budget
 3. Planning Committee
 4. BEQI
 5. Greenhouse Gas Reduction
 6. Education
 7. Green Building
 8. Cost of Growth
- iii. Need a Metropolitan Planning Organization Citizen Advisory Committee (MPO CAC) Representative. The rep. provides citizen input. Jacqui Bauer will attend the next meeting and will tentatively be the next EC MPO CAC Rep.

VII. Old Business

- a. MLK Day Project Planning – Kriste Lindberg
 - i. The project is coming together well. The mural to be painted on Monday will be green rolling hills with blue skies and puffy white clouds. The students will then be able to add temporary green building, landscaping, etc. themes on the walls
 - ii. All are invited to help with painting. Monday, January 21 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

VIII. Adjournment

- a. Heather Reynolds: Motion to adjourn
- b. Laura Trout: second
- c. Meeting Adjourned at 9:30 p.m.